

BERENSON, P. J.



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

January 9, 1980

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. Paul J. Berenson
Office of Assistant to the
Secretary of Defense for Atomic Energy
The Pentagon, Room 3E1074
Washington, D. C. 20301

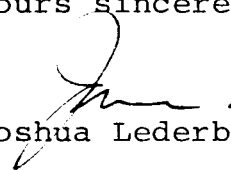
Dear Paul:

Here is another suggestion for a study topic for the Board, not necessarily the summer study.

My concern is to reach some more definitive policy with respect to production and procurement in chemical weaponry. I understand the Army is renewing its proposal for the construction of facilities for the production of binaries. This in itself may not be a huge item; and I can imagine that the recent crisis in U.S.-Soviet relations might provide a lot of steam for a variety of initiatives that have been held on the shelf. If you can reassure me that there has been a careful review of the long range needs for deployment of CW then by all means just disregard my suggestion.

Failing that it seems to me we need a comprehensive study of how CW would be deployed, especially in Europe, its costs, and cost-effectiveness in relation to computing needs (including CW defense). This should be a precondition of investments that may have substantial political and military-environmental as well as fiscal costs.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg